

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 712

By Odom

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Vice President Albert Arnold "Al" Gore, Jr., on winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts, have sought to improve the quality of life for all mankind, receiving international acclaim and accolades for their dedication to their fellow man; and

WHEREAS, such an outstanding Tennessean is Vice President Arnold Albert "Al" Gore, Jr., who was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts to promote understanding of the threats posed by global warming; and

WHEREAS, a prestigious international award that has been administered annually since 1901 by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, the Nobel Prize recognizes the world's most outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace; and

WHEREAS, sharing the award with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Vice President Gore joins the ranks of Albert Schweitzer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, former President Jimmy Carter, and fellow Tennessee statesman Cordell Hull as a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; and

WHEREAS, the Nobel Committee found that Vice President Gore "became aware at an early stage of the climatic challenges the world is facing," and that his "strong commitment ... has strengthened the struggle against climate change"; and

WHEREAS, his tireless thirty-year crusade to educate the public about global warming and to affect change culminated in the highly-acclaimed documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*,

which garnered two Oscar Awards and catapulted the issue of climate change to the forefront of current news, politics, and pop culture; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Gore is the star and narrator of this documentary, which is widely credited with helping to shift U.S. public opinion on the need for urgent action to curb man-made emissions of greenhouse gases linked to global warming; and

WHEREAS, his pioneering efforts to protect the earth's ozone layer and to clean up toxic-waste dumps were outlined in his best-selling book, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit*; and

WHEREAS, passionately committed to protecting and preserving the environment for future generations, he has written that "We must make the rescue of the environment the central organizing principle for civilization"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore began his ongoing commitment to serving the people of this state and nation when he was elected to represent the Fourth District of Tennessee in the United States House of Representatives in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he continued his dedication to public service during his tenure in the United States Senate from 1984 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore served his home state so well that he was re-elected to the U.S. Senate in 1990 with an unprecedented majority in each of Tennessee's 95 counties; and

WHEREAS, Al Gore was inaugurated as the forty-fifth Vice President of the United States of America on January 20, 1993, a position in which he served with distinction; President Bill Clinton and he astutely led the country during a period of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Al Gore was a central member of President Clinton's economic team, helping to design the program that led to the strong U.S. economy, casting the tie-breaking Senate vote for the plan in 1993, and helping to pass the first balanced budget in thirty years; and

WHEREAS, he helped to usher in the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history, with more than 18 million new jobs, wages rising at twice the rate of inflation, the lowest African-American and Hispanic poverty rates on record, the highest level of private

home ownership ever, increased investment in the cities, and the lowest unemployment rate in twenty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated his resolve to improving and protecting the lives of all Americans through his adroit service as President Clinton's Advisor on Foreign Policy, President of the United States Senate, and as a member of the President's Cabinet and the National Security Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gore was also an early and visionary leader in technology and telecommunications, helping to steer passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which promoted private investment and competition in the telecommunications industry; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Gore was raised in Carthage, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C., by his much admired father, the late United States Senator Albert Gore, Sr., and his mother, Pauline Gore, and he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating with honors from Harvard University, from which he received a degree in government in 1969, he valiantly served his country by volunteering for enlistment in the United States Army and then serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, before beginning his remarkable career in the public sector, Al Gore served adroitly as an investigative reporter for The Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he then sought to further his education, which would serve as the basis for his extraordinary political career, at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School and Law School; and

WHEREAS, Albert Gore, Jr., is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Mary Elizabeth "Tipper" Aitcheson Gore; together, they have four children, Karennia, Kristin, Sarah, and Albert III, and two grandchildren, Wyatt Gore Schiff and Anna Hunger Schiff; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Vice President Al Gore for his continued public service to the United States of America, and particularly to the state of Tennessee and his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Vice President Albert Arnold "Al" Gore, Jr., on his receipt of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his exemplary efforts to inform and educate the public and promote understanding of the threats posed by global warming and the measures needed to counteract such change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.